

JAN 30 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Kai Yang, et al.
Serial No.: 09/663,021
Filed: Sept. 15, 2000
For: SELF-ALIGNED SEMICONDUCTOR
INTERCONNECT BARRIER AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREFOR

: Confirmation No.: 1824
: Group Art Unit: 2815
: Examiner: Sheila V. Clark

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 Applicants submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
(within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of national application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits: whichever occurs last)
- under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:
 - Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
 - a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(after the CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with a:
 - Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and
 - a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i).
(filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee)

Please charge the sum of \$0.00 to Deposit Account 01-0365. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees required or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-0365 at any time during the pendency of this application.

- A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form-1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO-1449 and is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikio Ishimaru
Mikio Ishimaru
Registration No. 27,449
Date: January 30, 2003
Telephone No.: (408) 738-0592

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 (e)

Sir or Madam:

The undersigned hereby certifies that either:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited for the first time in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement, or

No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement

-- was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and

-- to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikio Ishimaru
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Date: Date: January 30, 2003

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